

**QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP #DW-001 AMENDMENT 1
IOWA DATA WAREHOUSE SOLUTION**

	RFP PAGE #	QUESTION (posted as submitted)	ANSWER
1		ESP Solutions group is on the list of Vendors who intend to respond. ESP Solutions group provided pre-RFP Data Warehouse planning sessions with Iowa DE and AEA stakeholders. Documentation showing this involvement was posted on the Iowa DOE website. Does a company pre-engaged on an RFP opportunity get to respond to the RFP in the State of Iowa? Please confirm.	The Iowa Department of Education is aware of the concerns of organizational conflicts of interest and will make every attempt to be sure that the selected vendor has no conflict by requiring the completion of Attachment 2, Certification of Independence and No Conflict of Interest. Attachment 2 is being revised to clarify this and an amendment will be released soon.
2		The Iowa Department of Education has engaged members of the D3M Alliance (ESP Solutions Group, TetraData and Edustructures) in the definition of the Data Warehouse RFP and former employees of the Iowa Department of Education are employed by members of the alliance. Will the alliance member companies, either individually or together, be allowed to bid for this RFP?	The Iowa Department of Education is aware of the concerns of organizational conflicts of interest and will make every attempt to be sure that the selected vendor has no conflict by requiring the completion of Attachment 2, Certification of Independence and No Conflict of Interest. Attachment 2 is being revised to clarify this and an amendment will be released soon.
3	75	Section 4.2.1 – Certification of Independence and No Conflict of Interest Attachment #2. Will the Iowa Department of Education allow responses to this RFP from former employees of the department who are now employed by a submitting vendor? Does the state of Iowa consider this an interference with fair competition or a conflict of interests of the DE?	The Iowa Department of Education is aware of the concerns of organizational conflicts of interest and will make every attempt to be sure that the selected vendor has no conflict by requiring the completion of Attachment 2, Certification of Independence and No Conflict of Interest. Attachment 2 is being revised to clarify this and an amendment will be released soon.
4		Are there any limitations preventing the respondent from utilizing a former employee of the State of Iowa's Department of Education?	The Iowa Department of Education is aware of the concerns of organizational conflicts of interest and will make every attempt to be sure that the selected vendor has no conflict by requiring the completion of Attachment 2, Certification of Independence and No Conflict of Interest. Attachment 2 is being revised to clarify this and an amendment will be released soon.
5		How will the passage of IA HB 468, an	No impact

		act requiring the study by the Department of Education relating to the implementation of a statewide student information system, affect the decision of the Iowa Department of Education to proceed with RFP# DW-001?	
6		Will the department proceed with the purchase and implementation of a data warehouse that may or may not be required after implementation of the statewide SIS?	Yes (At this time, there is no plan to implement a statewide student information system.)
7		Is there a plan for prioritization of incremental builds?	No
8		Are there data retention and archiving requirements that should be disclosed to accommodate procedural or legal requirements?	No, the ability to retain data for 20 years is all that is required.
9		What kind of comparison periods apply to this project?	Comparisons can range from data within a single year to data across various combinations of multi-year periods.
10		<p>_____ kindly submits the following question for the Iowa Department of Education's (DE) consideration. Per Section 4.2(q), Technical Proposal – Bid Proposal Security:</p> <p>The vendor shall submit a bid bond, certified or cashier's check, or an irrevocable letter of credit in favor of or made payable to the DE in the amount of \$3,000,000. If the vendor elects to use a bond, a surety licensed to do business in Iowa on a form acceptable to the DE must issue the bond. The bid proposal security shall be forfeited if the vendor chosen to receive the contract withdraws its proposal after the DE issues a Notice of Intent to Award, does not honor the terms offered in its proposal, or does not negotiate contract terms in good faith. Security submitted by vendors will be returned when the proposals expire, are rejected, or the DE enters into a contract with the successful vendor, whichever is earliest.</p> <p>From conversations with our partners as well as a competitor, we believe that the above language will deter several qualified companies (Fortune 500 as</p>	Please see amendment 2 to RFP #DW-001. Bid bond should be 5 percent of the proposed bid.

		<p>well as mid/small sized companies that specialize in Education DW and Analytical solutions) from submitting qualified proposals for this referenced RFP as the current language is restrictive.</p> <p>_____ hopes that DE will consider removing the requirement in order to allow all qualified vendors the opportunity to bid on this work. We believe the requirement places an undo burden on potential vendors and may eliminate otherwise highly qualified vendors from bidding. Small and mid-sized businesses, even those 100% capable of executing upon this project, will have difficulty obtaining a bond for such a large amount. Even those few large companies that are qualified for this project and could afford such a bond would still likely not be willing to do so.</p> <p>It is our hope that the language can be removed in its entirety. If DE cannot remove this language, we hope that DE will consider the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove the “does not negotiate contract terms in good faith” language – this language is very broad and can be interpreted (in good faith) differently by different people. DE should either remove the “good faith” language or make it mutual to both parties, as negotiations are conducted by two entities with either side having the ability to not negotiate in good faith. 2. The \$3,000,000 bid bond will keep mid and small businesses that are fully capable of providing the required services and products from bidding on this proposal. If DE cannot remove this requirement, can DE investigate lowering this amount to a level that will allow mid/small businesses to participate in this RFP? <p>_____ is hopeful that DE can remove/modify this language to allow small and large companies to submit</p>	
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		<p>highly qualified proposals to meet the needs of DE. _____ as one of those companies, wants the opportunity to bid on this RFP, as we believe that we have formed an outstanding solution that brings the right expertise, knowledge, and technology to DE – a combination chosen by other State Education agencies as well as the U.S. Department of Education.</p> <p>_____ will be submitting additional clarification questions prior to the DE deadline but wanted to provide the Department additional time to investigate the above.</p>	
11	12	2.1.10 c Please confirm that the Iowa Department of Education are looking for a fully compliant solution, based on the requirements listed in Section 3 Service Requirements, Pages 25 – 61	Yes
12	24	What is included in the “Standard Software” mentioned on Page 24?	Standard software includes any commercially available software.
13	29	3.2.1.2 Data Warehouse To iteratively design dimensional model, business users have to be available during all phases of DW project. Are business users approachable and easily contacted? (This is very important requirement)	Yes
14	29	<p>c: Data warehouse closely aligns itself with dimensional modeling techniques currently demonstrated in the data warehouse industry. This requirement sounds like design solution. What is the driver behind specifying the solution architecture? Also many current implementations are also using Operational Data Stores to store the detail current information at the transactional level and may be more normalized to compliment the data warehouse. Does this requirement imply you are not willing to consider the Operational Data Store?</p> <p>Are you willing to re-word this requirement to “Data Warehouse closely aligns itself with current industry data warehousing modeling</p>	The data warehouse solution should take advantage of and stay current with the prevalent data warehousing industry trends. This includes Operational Data Stores and current industry data warehousing modeling techniques.

		techniques?"	
15	38	jj: The solution should successfully integrate with multiple applications (e.g, ETL Tools, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, Oracle RDBMS). Not sure what you mean since this solution must be 100% web based. Are you referring to the ability to pull dimensional data from the ETL tool? Or are you referring the ability to export information to Excel, Access. Are you referring to having the user be able to connect the web tool to a local Oracle DBMS? Please explain this requirement.	The analytical reporting tools should not be constrained to accessing only one type of data source.
16	39	There is a requirement (xx.) that the system support "200 simultaneous end-users without performance degradation". What should we assume is the "average think time" for these 200 simultaneously logged-in users? Alternatively, how many concurrent http(s) requests should the system support?	Initially, the system should log users off if there has been no activity for ten minutes. This value should be able to be changed at the Iowa Department of Education's discretion. The system should be able to process the active requests of 200 users simultaneously without experiencing undue delays in the response time to users.
17	39	<p>The RFP references 200 simultaneous users. Does this mean that 200 users are logged into the system at the same time or that 200 users are running the same report at the same time?</p> <p>Can you provide the breakdown of number of users by their usage profile? Examples of typical BI usage profiles are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic Users: Run prompted reports ▪ Power Users: Run prompted reports and conduct ad hoc analysis ▪ Advanced Developer: Users with advanced skills to develop reports and deploy them for basic and power users. 	The system should accommodate the login of 600 users with the potential for 200 users to run the same report at the same time. The Iowa Department of Education cannot provide specifics on user types but would expect most users to be basic users.
18	39 41	Does the excused downtime include operating system and core application patch installation? Pg 39 & 41	Yes
19	40	There is a requirement to include the "ability for connection monitoring". To what "connections" does this refer - tcp/ip connections (i.e., http(s) requests)	The system should provide the ability to monitor connections for both telecommunications data, such as source and destination IP addresses, as well as

		or database connections? For the required meaning(s) of "connection", what should the application make visible to the administrators with access to this feature?	application information, like the tables and fields being accessed.
20		Any politics at DE should we be aware of?	No
21	51	Section 2.2.1, Vendor Requirements states "All additional key personnel must be employed by or committed to join the vendor's organization by the beginning of the contract start date." Page 18 Does this mean that key personnel cannot be subcontractors?	The project manager cannot be subcontracted. Other key personnel can be subcontracted.
22	19	What level of independence is given for adding and removing staff from the project? Who maintains authority over staffing plans?	The Iowa Department of Education has final authority (with discussion with vendor).
23	52	Will any DOE staff be involved directly in project administration or systems management in the early stages of this project? If so, who will be responsible for managing and monitoring their work? Project Manager??	Yes, the Iowa Department of Education will have staff directly involved as well as an Iowa Department of Education project manager.
24	62	Is there a page limit on the RFP response?	No
25	66	4.2 (q) Technical Proposal Is the DE requesting a bid bond of \$150,000 or 5% of the vendor's proposed cost, (whichever is the lesser amount) to be submitted with the proposal (i.e., would a proposal with a total cost to the DE of \$2.5 million require a \$125,000 bid bond)?	Five percent of the vendor's proposed bid.
26	66	4.2 (q) Technical Proposal Regarding forfeiture of the bid-proposal, the determination of "good faith" negotiations could be considered subjective. Would the DE provide more detailed specifications or consider arbitration should there be a dispute?	The contract issued will follow the terms and conditions as stated in the RFP and in accordance with Iowa law. The department will negotiate or clarify those terms and conditions for the chosen vendor but will not go to mediation or arbitration to resolve contracting issues. Forfeiture of the bid bond would be a last step invoked only if the failure to negotiate a contract prevented the Iowa Department of Education from proceeding with the project with another vendor.

27		Should the vendor propose new Backup Infrastructure to be used exclusively by the Data Warehouse Solution? If not, what is the existing backup infrastructure that the system needs to be compatible with?	Vendors should propose the most appropriate backup methodology that meets the RFP requirements. It does not have to use the existing infrastructure.
28	73	Is the initial contract limited to only the one year specified or can the proposed contract be one to three years depending on the proposed timeline by the chosen vendor?	The Iowa Department of Education will look at proposals from one to three years.
29		Project EASIER provides a complete and informative data dictionary for the data elements used in the application. However, additional information about the actual data model (tables, attributes and relations) would be helpful. What is the data model for the project EASIER database? What is the size of the database; say in terms of the number of rows in the largest table and the overall size, in MB of the current version of the database? What relational database management system (RDMS) is used to implement the project EASIER database?	There are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately). There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.
30		The links provided in the RFP relating to the IMS information management system reveal that the RDMS for the underlying database is MS SQL Server. However, as with the Project EASIER database, estimating work effort for the ETL component would be facilitated with additional information. What is the data model for the project EASIER database? What is the size of the database; say in terms of the number of rows in the largest table and the overall size, in MB of the current version of the database?	The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).
31		The links provided in the RFP indicate the ITBS/ITED data are available as "flat files", using the file formats given at the University of Iowa site. Are the file formats provided at the University of Iowa site those to be used to aggregate the ITBS/ITED data? If not, please provide the specification for this data? One can, certainly, compute the approximate size of a file containing all the data for a given year from the file specifications and the estimate of the	The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the Iowa Testing Program personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).

		number of students taking the test. However, is the size, in MB, of the all ITBS and ITED test scores for one year available?	
32		Will each of the data sources be available on the network on which the Iowa Data Warehouse Solution will be deployed? If not, should the project requirements and costs reflect the need to obtain copies of the data sources?	The data will be available on the network. There will be no cost.
33		There is an extensive list of analyses the system must support – and leads one to the conclusion that a good BI system is needed. Will there be any penalty for proposals containing Open Source technologies, as long as they otherwise meet the requirements contained in the RFP?	No, there is no penalty for Open Source technologies.
34	30	Section 3.2.1.3.1 and 3.2.1.3.2 reference accessibility standards. The nature of some dynamically generated graphs and charts would make it nearly impossible to make them accessible. Can clarification be provided about what parts of the public portal need to be accessible and how accessibility of graphs and charts is to be handled?	The proposals must meet all W3 Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 Priority 1 checkpoints. Specifically Guideline 1 Checkpoints: 1.1 http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/
35	31 40	What accessibility requirements need to be documented in the RFP vs. in the deliverables? 3.2.1.3.1 h	The RFP must provide assurance that the system will be compliant and the documentation provided in the deliverable must detail how they meet compliance.
36	31 40	Are the accessibility requirements the same in TT as in 3.2.1.3.1 H?	Yes
37	42	How much of the functionality on the web site is required to be keyboard driven?	There is no requirement for how much the website is to be driven by the keyboard.
38		Will the Iowa Department of Education (IDE) consider an analytics solution based on Open Source technologies?	Yes
39	25 35	Should the analytical reporting tools be accessible from internet too?	Yes
40	50	What is meant by 'data analysis tools?' What are the ambitions: reporting on what has already happened only, or also forecasting/ projecting what may	For a description of data analysis tools see 3.2.1.3. The majority of reports would be descriptive based on current and historical data. There would also be

		happen?	a need for predictive reporting.
41		What current tools is the client using for data mining?	None
42		What current tools is IA using for reporting and data analysis?	ACCESS, Chart FX, Excel, ArcGIS, SAS, SQL, SPSS
43	28	f: "Offer robust data-mining features for including scalable data-mining model creation, training, and predictions." Data mining models are usually using lowest granularity data. Does this mean that data has to be collected at the lowest transactional level? What else features you are mentioning here?	Data is collected at the student level.
44		What are common techniques in place such as Decision Tree, Linear regression, etc that the client uses?	Linear Regression, Logistical Regression, and Cohort Survival Methodology.
45		What percentage of user base employs these techniques?	3 percent
46		Could you please list the Reporting/Decision Support/Data Mining tools currently in use by IA DOE and/or and any IA districts that you are aware of?	The Iowa Department of Education does not currently use Data Mining Software. ACCESS, Chart FX, Excel, ArcGIS, SAS, SQL, SPSS are used for reporting.
47	39	Section 3.2.1.3.2 on page 39 indicates that the analytical reporting tool should support 200 simultaneous users and 600 overall users. Is this the number of users vendors should license their proposed data analysis/analytical reporting solution for?	Unlimited number of users. The general public will have access to this data.
48		Does the Iowa Department of Education have standards for data analysis/analytical reporting tools? If so, what are they? If not, what are the current tools in use at the Iowa Department of Education?	ACCESS, Chart FX, Excel, ArcGIS, SAS, SQL, SPSS are used for reporting.
49	29 32	The RFP calls for both "data analysis tools" and "analytical reporting tools". What does the Iowa Department of Education see as the differences between these two sets of tools, if any?	Data analysis tools are for all users. Analytical reporting tools are for a more limited audience.
50	29	3.2.1.3 Data Analysis Does the DE have a preferred vendor in	No

		mind for Data Analysis tools?	
51	29	Is direct reporting from DW expected or from OLAP cubes only (preferable)?	The Iowa Department of Education is open to proposals that do either, as long as they meet the RFP requirements.
52	29	3.2.1.3 Data Analysis Tools How many powerful business users (which will slice and dice, do market analysis) are expected? How many business users (which will run canned reports only) are expected? 200 simultaneous users – are they powerful or reports runners only?	The system should accommodate the login of 600 users with the potential for 200 users to run the same report at the same time. The Iowa Department of Education cannot provide specifics on user types but would expect most users to be basic users. Most users will be using predefined reports.
53	30	3.2.1.3.1 Public Portal 2 nd Paragraph: The following list highlights the minimum number of standard reports that need to be created. What kind of response are you looking for? Do you want a detail description on how we would create the reports in the RFP or are these examples for our edification?	The Iowa Department of Education wants a detailed description of the reporting tool. The Iowa Department of Education does not want a detailed description of each report.
54	31	(Sec 3.2.1.3.1.p and Sec 3.2.1.3.2) Section 3.2.1.3.1 requires that graphs generated from the public portal be generated using standard file formats to support copy and paste functions and viewing in a wide variety of browsers. Sec 3.2.1.3.1, pertaining to Analytical Reporting Tools requires graphical results that are dynamic – supporting drill down to other layers. Is there a specified format in which the dynamic graphs are to be produced? Does the same “Copy and Paste” requirement apply to these graphs?	No, there is not a specified format. Yes, the copy and paste requirement applies.
55	32	3.2.1.3.2: Analytical Reporting Tools Is vendor given a choice to select analytical reporting tool?	Yes
56	32	“The vendor’s solution must provide an efficient reporting tool that will assist the DE with accessing and compiling data for the following reports” – Does it mean that only a certain number of canned reports have to be created and made accessible on the web portal?	Yes, with the number of reports to be negotiated. Solutions must also include the process for the Iowa Department of Education to develop and add reports in the future
57	36	3.2.1.3.2 n Please provide more detail on the growth function in this	Display/graph differences in user selected elements over user selected time periods.

		requirement.	
58	36	Please explain “unlimited”? 3.2.1.3.2 U?	The system should not predefine the number of charts or graphs that can be created.
59	37	z: End users can sort/pivot data locally without initiating a new query against the underlying database. This seems to be a design specification. What is underlying concern that is driving this requirement?	Performance and response of the data warehouse solution could be negatively impacted by repeating a database query for data that has already been retrieved.
60	44	<p>Section 3.2.1.9 Back-up and Recovery j. and k.</p> <p>j. specifies: “Provide system back-up and recovery capabilities so that normal processing can be resumed within 30 calendar days in the event of a disaster or major hardware/software problem.”</p> <p>k. specifies: “In the event that a full hardware replacement is required as a result of a major disaster, full operations must be resumed no later than the DE and vendor agreed upon time, but in no more than seven days.”</p> <p>Please explain the difference between an event “a disaster or major hardware/software problem” in j. and “a major disaster” in k. and why 30 calendar days are allowed for the resumption of processing in j. while only 7 days are allowed in k.?</p>	<p>J. refers to a major building and/or campus disaster that restricts or eliminates access to state buildings.</p> <p>K. refers to a disaster of a nature that affects only the hardware being used for the data warehouse, for example, damage from a power surge or failure.</p>
61	44	<p>Section 3.2.1.9 Back-up and Recovery</p> <p>Is the vendor responsible for providing any of the following under this RFP in the event of a disaster?</p> <p>Building: if so how large, what distance from Des Moines and please provide all pertinent building specifications necessary for the vendor to ensure proper response. May the vendor understand that any specifications not supplied by the DE will then be deemed to be at the vendor’s discretion?</p> <p>Connectivity: including how much in Mbits, redundancy requirements, carrier requirements etc. May the vendor understand that any specifications not supplied by the DE will then be deemed</p>	The vendor is not expected to provide any of the items listed in the event of a disaster.

		<p>to be at the vendor's discretion?</p> <p>Office furnishings: including number, type and style of desks, chairs, tables, paper file storage etc? May the vendor understand that any specifications not supplied by the DE will then be deemed to be at the vendor's discretion?</p> <p>Personnel: including types of personnel, experience etc. to replace personnel lost in the disaster? May the vendor understand that any specifications not supplied by the DE will then be deemed to be at the vendor's discretion?</p> <p>Computers: computers used by the DE that pre-existed this system but are used to interact with this system, including number, type, specifications for memory, disk capacity, screen size, etc.? May the vendor understand that any specifications not supplied by the DE will then be deemed to be at the vendor's discretion?</p>	
62	44	Does the backup and recovery time requirement include complete restoration of the operating system?	Yes, recovery of the operating system must be included in the time required to restore the data warehouse.
63		Is there a requirement to have an alternate backup-site implemented for disaster recovery?	No, an alternate site is not required.
64	32	How do we interpret 3.2.1.3.1 R	The tools should allow the Iowa Department of Education's data warehouse administrator to suppress counts and percents according to the cell size, level of user, and report audience.
65		How will the DOE accommodate for change management? For example, what if source data schema change and require rework on ETL processes?	All change requests must follow the process outlined in 3.2.4.4.
66		Change management, again... what will be the prioritization policy of the DOE if external reporting requirements change? Will report changes take priority over new and continuing work? If so, will the DOE be amenable to modifying timelines, expectations and budgets?	The Iowa Department of Education will decide the priority of changes based on business needs and requirements. The Iowa Department of Education will expect the vendor to provide a cost estimate per the process described in 3.2.4.4.

67	29	What type of Data Warehouse is expected? Solid EDW or linked Data Marts each describing one business process(es)?	The Iowa Department of Education is open to all proposals that meet the functionality requirements specified in the RFP.
68	28	There seems to be inconsistency in language between deliverables and requirements regarding data warehouse production. Is the DOE looking for one data warehouse or a series of data marts or a combination?	The Iowa Department of Education is open to all proposals that meet the functionality requirements specified in the RFP.
69	58	Does the DOE have a plan and support structure for training, user education, release notification and user support, or are these also elements to be proposed and supported in the vendor relationship?	These are the responsibility of the vendor as described in Section 3.2.5.
70		What percentage of the required project roles will be required to be performed onsite? In other words, will certain roles allowed to be performed remotely?	Some roles can be performed remotely, others will require some on-site time.
71		Will the Iowa DE provide space and facilities for contractors to work onsite?	Yes
72		Will the contractors have remote access to the DE systems to do development and provide support and maintenance?	No
73		Is there a contractor in place today providing support for K-12 reporting needs and source system needs?	No. Support is provided in-house.
74		If there is a contractor in place, who is that contractor and how long have they been involved with DE?	There is no contractor.
75		Will this contractor continue to support DE during the implementation of this project?	There is no contractor.
76		What assurance will the DOE provide that computer systems and networks will be managed and maintained? Is this also the vendor's responsibility or will the DOE be responsible?	Maintenance of the computer systems for the data warehouse will be the responsibility of the vendor during the contract. It will be the responsibility of the Iowa Department of Education to maintain the network at all times.
77		What level of responsibility will the DOE assume in for managing and maintaining systems during the transition year?	The Iowa Department of Education will have staff assigned to this role during the transition year.

78		How much of the operational maintenance will ITE be responsible for? For example routine backups, etc.	<p>The vendor would be responsible for setting up the process, the Iowa Department of Education would be responsible for the execution.</p> <p>(ITE is not part of the Iowa Department of Education, it is under the Department of Administrative Services.)</p>
79	40	<p>(RFP Section 3.2.1.5) In the third paragraph of this section the RFP states, "The data warehouse must use 128 bit encryption ...". In the first point a. the RFP lists, "the ability to apply field level encryption". One might interpret the first statement as indicating that the entire data warehouse must be encrypted. Item a. indicates that encryption is to be done at the field level. Specifically, at what level in the data warehouse will encryption be required, database, table, row or specific attribute? How dynamic should this feature be, i.e., should an authorized data warehouse administrator be able to change the encryption "mode" at the level required?</p> <p>The data warehouse is to have the capacity to support twenty years worth of data. What happens as data in the data warehouse matures past 20 years? Should responses to the RFP propose a way of archiving and, possibly, restoring data more than 20 years old?</p>	<p>The system should have the ability to encrypt selected fields. The fields that need be encrypted would be identified in the design and creation of the tables.</p> <p>The present RFP does not require archival of data that is more than 20 years old, but the Iowa Department of Education would not discount a solution that includes such capability.</p>
80	40	There is a requirement of the "ability to apply field level encryption". Does this mean that every field in every table in the data warehouse must be dynamically administrable as requiring encryption? Would an acceptable alternative be to provide the ability to dynamically and completely control the visibility of attributes in the system and "hard code" those fields in the database which must be encrypted (e.g., passwords).	The system should have the ability to encrypt selected fields. The fields that need to be encrypted would be identified in the design and creation of the tables.
81	40	3.2.1.5 Security a: ability to apply field level encryption. Are you referring to full lifecycle of the data in that field including the ETL	Data do not need to be encrypted in the ETL process but selected fields will need to be encrypted when stored in the data warehouse.

		process and persistence in the data warehouse?	
82		Once the system is implemented, will the LEA's have any involvement in the ETL process? If so please specify their level of involvement	The ongoing scheduling and execution of the ETL processes will be managed and monitored by the Iowa Department of Education.
83	28	3.2.1.1 j. Requirement Please clarify the meaning of hand-coding. Does this mean writing of code (for example - the ability to configure software via config files or GUI's rather than write application code)	Custom code should be limited and documented.
84	28	(RFP Section 3.2.1.1.j) This point states "...prefer an ETL solution that does not include hand coding for security, project management and maintenance issues". What is meant by "security" in this context? Is this user authorization security – who can enhance the ETL, who can trigger the ETL? Does this refer to data security, e.g., intermediate encryption of temporary files? To what "project management" functions does this point refer? To what "maintenance issues" does this point refer?	Security is in the context of loading the data so that user access can be secured as necessary. Project management and maintenance refer to the ability to manage and maintain the loading process without the necessity of modifying custom code.
85	28	3.2.1.1 ETL including performing joins on tables contained in different databases" (page 28) ETL process does not usually join tables located in different databases. Instead all joins are implemented in the ETL stage area. Is this a mandatory requirement?	The Iowa Department of Education is interested in the most effective and efficient solution for the data warehouse. The ETL design may include joins of source data or joins of intermediate data in a staging area.
86	28	Will the ETL be metadata driven? What metadata is needed? Will reports be running against metadata?	Vendors may propose a metadata driven solution if it meets the functionality requirements of the RFP.
87	28	Does data have to be archived for audit and compliances purposes after each ETL step?	Data do not need to be archived for audit and compliance purposes after each ETL step.
88	28	What data latency is required? Will streaming ETL data flow be ever required?	The current RFP does not assume a real-time data warehouse. The latency between the event occurring and the event being reflected in the data warehouse could be days or weeks.
89	28	a: Ability to transfer millions of rows of	The RFP does not assume a daily load of

		<p>data to from heterogeneous data sources and targets. What is the ETL window and how much data is generated between ETL loads?</p> <p>Does this mean we will need to write back information into the source systems?</p>	<p>all types of data into the warehouse. Rather, periodic loads of separate data (EASIER, IMS, ITBS/ITED) will occur over different weeks during the year.</p> <p>No.</p>
90	28	c: need functionality to do fuzzy matching. What are you looking to fuzzy match? Will “fuzzy algorithms” be provided?	The data warehouse should not be limited in its capabilities which should include the possibility of applying fuzzy logic if that is the most appropriate method to transform data.
91	28	e: “Capability to apply repeatable error correction routines based on rules approved by the DE.” Do you mention restarting, logging, notification, alternate paths?	The Iowa Department of Education is interested in a fully functional ETL solution that utilizes commonly accepted techniques in the industry.
92	31	Section 3.2.1.3.1.j indicates that handheld devices must be supported. Does the Dept. of Education intend for there to be a special mobile version of the public portal? Can a list of mobile devices or protocols to be supported be provided?	There is no expectation of a special mobile version of the public portal. No list will be provided.
93	31	<p>Can you provide the types of hand-held devices for which the portal should be accessible?</p> <p>What are the specific features that should be accessible via the hand-held devices?</p> <p>Are users expected to navigate the portal and run reports or are users expected to simply receive alerts so that they can log onto the system to view the reports?</p>	<p>No list will be provided.</p> <p>NA</p> <p>Users will run reports and view reports.</p>
94	31	(Sec 3.2.1.3.1.j) This point mentions access to the public portal through hand held devices. In some IT environments, this has come to include cell phones, PDA's, etc. The problem currently is that these devices have different UI requirements. Specifically what hand held devices are to be supported? If a specific list is not available, what hand held UI technologies must be	There is no expectation of a special mobile version of the public portal.

		supported?	
95	31	Can we assume that handheld access is via a standard browser interface? Are there additional screen size requirements? 3.2.1.3.1 j	It is correct to assume that hand-held access is via a standard browser interface. There are no additional requirements regarding screen size.
96	31	Section j: What parts of the portal need to be rendered on mobile devices? Do you need to support mobile devices for all navigation and reports?	There is no expectation of a special mobile version of the public portal.
97		Multi-language support can be assumed at (at least) two levels in an application. In the simpler case, internationalization is only required of the UI components, e.g., labels, button labels, etc. A more difficult requirement is if the data itself must be internationalized. At which of these levels is the data warehouse requirement for multi-language support?	Multi-language support should follow the W3C suggestions for internationalization, which can be found at http://www.w3.org/International/quicktips/
98	30	<p>3.2.1.3.1 Public Portal Public Portal Minimum Requirements k. End-user tools must provide extremely quick response times to their end-users. Can the DE elaborate on what it believes are “extremely quick response times?”</p> <p>l. Multi-language capability for non-English speaking end-users across the globe. Specifically, which languages must be supported.</p>	<p>A simple query should be returned to the end-user within seconds.</p> <p>English [en-us] is the only language that is required for project completion; however, vendors must provide a unicode (UTF-8) open architecture with the capability for additional languages to be easily added on an as needed basis. Technically, the site will be monolingual with the option of multi-lingual user interface components (navigation menus, labels, date formats, etc.)</p>
99	31	All products which going to be part of the solution needs to be 508 compliant 12. Page 31 what other languages should the solution support?	<p>A simple query should be returned to the end-user within a second.</p> <p>English [en-us] is the only language that is required for project completion; however, vendors must provide a unicode (UTF-8) open architecture with the capability for additional languages to be easily added on an as needed basis. Technically, the site will be monolingual with the option of multi-lingual user</p>

			interface components (navigation menus, labels, date formats, etc.)
100	31 39	How many languages need to be provided (and what are they), or do we only need to provide the open architecture and capability for additional languages? 3.2.1.3.1 L	<p>A simple query should be returned to the end-user within a second.</p> <p>English [en-us] is the only language that is required for project completion; however, vendors must provide a unicode (UTF-8) open architecture with the capability for additional languages to be easily added on an as needed basis. Technically, the site will be monolingual with the option of multi-lingual user interface components (navigation menus, labels, date formats, etc.)</p>
101	39	aaa: Multi-language capability for non-English speaking end-users. Please clarify what parts of the tool need Multi-language support and which languages you want available upon release.	<p>A simple query should be returned to the end-user within a second.</p> <p>English [en-us] is the only language that is required for project completion; however, vendors must provide a unicode (UTF-8) open architecture with the capability for additional languages to be easily added on an as needed basis. Technically, the site will be monolingual with the option of multi-lingual user interface components (navigation menus, labels, date formats, etc.)</p>
102	31	Section I: Multi-language capability for non-English speaking end-users across the globe: What sections of the portal need multi-language capability? Also which languages are required upon release?	<p>A simple query should be returned to the end-user within a second.</p> <p>English [en-us] is the only language that is required for project completion; however, vendors must provide a unicode (UTF-8) open architecture with the capability for additional languages to be easily added on an as needed basis. Technically, the site will be monolingual with the option of multi-lingual user interface components (navigation menus, labels, date formats, etc.)</p>
103		Who will manage the user communities?	User management is expected to be decentralized with the level of detail to be

			determined during the design phase.
104		Are there security restrictions based on user communities? If so, who will be responsible for managing and communicating the rules and administering the policy?	User restrictions will be based on user communities with the level of detail to be determined during the design phase.
105		Are the user groups defined already?	General categories of user groups are known, like the Iowa Department of Education, area education agencies, school districts, and the general public, but additional specific user groups will be determined during the design phase.
106		What are the different user groups who will be using the system?	General categories of user groups are known, like the Iowa Department of Education, area education agencies, school districts, and the general public, but additional specific user groups will be determined during the design phase.
107	40	3.2.1.5 d Please provide more information on his requirement. Is the need for the access to functionality to be controlled by login group?	The data warehouse solution must have the capability to control access to functionality for different users based on their role and function.
108		The subset of the contract terms presented in Attachment 6 of the RFP does not contain a Limitation on Liability provision. The absence of such a provision is not customary in the industry and is much broader than what is necessary to provide adequate protection to the State. In addition, the absence of such a provision will significantly restrict competition. We would propose that a Limitation on Liability provision be incorporated into the resultant contract to place reasonable, commercially standard parameters on the Contractor's liability obligations. Is it the State's intention to incorporate such a provision into the resultant contract?	In the public sector there are significant constitutional and statutory limitations on the ability of state agencies to indemnify others. As a general rule, the state of Iowa can only indemnify a contracting party for the acts and omissions of the state of Iowa and its officers, employees, and agents. The Iowa Department of Education has no ability to broaden the scope of indemnification. Please see Chapter 669.2, Code of Iowa 2007.
109	40	d: defines enforceable roles for development: Are you referring to documentation related to how we would control access to certain parts of the system by the development team?	The data warehouse solution must document how certain users will be allowed to do development work (add standard reports, data definitions, ETL, etc.).
110	41	There is a requirement that permission	Yes, as long as the solution allows for

		be implemented as a security table. Will IDE consider, without penalty, sound solutions that involve a little more complex data model for security and permissions, e.g., containing dynamically configurable roles, assignment of roles to users and assignment of roles to functionality and data?	clear authorization of roles and allows easy establishment of roles by individuals with the authority to add users.
111	41	What is your interpretation of Hierarchical password protection for the purposes of this project?	System administrators should have password administration rights to lower security levels but not to levels above themselves.
112	41	g: Security Table: identifies who has permission to access what data. It also should address how the system will enable certain end users to obtain access to data that may not be currently available. Are you referring to the ability to grant access to additional data for specific individual within a specified role? This seems to be in conflict the requirement section e which states secure role based access to end users at the state. Do you want role based, user based or Hybrid?	The Iowa Department of Education would prefer a role-based solution.
113		What applications are currently leveraging SIF standard and if so how?	None
114		Is this data sharing via SIF standards or interfaces?	No
115		What other entities does the client share data with and is this data shared via SIF standards or interfaces?	Share data with a variety of sources (ex: federal government, school districts, general public). Data is not currently shared with SIF standards or interfaces.
116	4	To what level does the system needs to be SIF compliant? Is this system going to interact with any other outside systems? Any Web Services/SOA requirements?	The system needs to meet current SIF specifications. In the future, the system may interact with other outside systems.
117	45	There is a general requirement that the solution be "SIF Compliant". Does this require that the movement of data from each of the 3 existing data stores be SIF Compliant - with respect to XML data-formatting, message structure and message protocol. If so, do the 3	No (data from three existing sources be SIF compliant). Yes (proposed solution provides SIF compliant service for data access and export).

		existing data stores already provide a SIF compliant API for this purpose? Alternatively, does "SIF Compliance" just refer to a requirement that the proposed solution provide a SIF Compliant service for access data in the system and the ability to export data using the SIF XML standard?	
118		What other entities does the client share data with?	Share data with variety of sources (ex: federal government, school districts, general public).
119	42	3.2.1.7 Technology Requirements The proposed solution, at minimum, should: b. Be maintainable by current DE staff; utilizing their current skill sets. Vendor requests information detailing DE staff current skill sets.	The current Iowa Department of Education's technical staff skill sets are mainly Microsoft based, but the Iowa Department of Education is open to developing the skill sets of its current staff in technologies that are commonly used in the data warehousing industry. The Iowa Department of Education would not be interested in solutions that use unique, little-known skill sets.
120	43	In Section 3.2.1.7 it says that the system must be maintainable by current DE staff utilizing their current skill sets. Can more information be provided about the Dept. of Education staff's skill sets?	The current Iowa Department of Education's technical staff skill sets are mainly Microsoft based, but the Iowa Department of Education is open to developing the skill sets of its current staff in technologies that are commonly used in the data warehousing industry. The Iowa Department of Education would not be interested in solutions that use unique, little-known skill sets.
121	43	At some point the solution will be maintained by current DE staff. What kind of skills do they have?	The current Iowa Department of Education's technical staff skill sets are mainly Microsoft based, but the Iowa Department of Education is open to developing the skill sets of its current staff in technologies that are commonly used in the data warehousing industry. The Iowa Department of Education would not be interested in solutions that use unique, little-known skill sets.
122	43	You mention that the system must be usable by current staff with current skills. However there is not currently a database administrator. Will we be required to fully train a resource in database administration?	The Iowa Department of Education is in the process of adding a full-time database administrator to the current staff.
123	51 52	How will the DOE accommodate for identified deficiencies in either DOE	The Iowa Department of Education will work with the selected vendor on staffing

		process or staffing issues during the transition period? What if a staff member is identified as not meeting expectations or qualifications for the work?	issues.
124		To what extent will the proposed solution need to deal with data cleansing from the existing three repositories? Do these repositories contain duplicate information? If so, is such data date-stamped, or otherwise tagged, so as to facilitate automated filtering? Do the three existing repositories contain "related" data. If so, are there well-defined identifiers supporting the association data intended as related?	Yes, all three data sources will require cleansing. There is duplicate information between all three data collections, particularly student demographic data. The common identifier in all three data repositories is the unique student identifier. These are issues that need to be explored during the design phase.
125	28	The vendor must propose an automated extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) process to move data from the Project EASIER system, the IMS system, and ITSB/ITED data to the data warehouse. What platforms are EASIER, IMS and ITBS projects running on? What data repositories are used?	Will need to be determined during the design phase. EASIER, IMS and ITBS data will be on SQL databases.
126		What is the complexity of the 3 data sources with respect to number of tables, average number of attributes per table, average number of related tables per table and maximum number of rows in any table in each database?	For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately). There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size. The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately). The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).
127		What level of integration is required between the source feeds?	Full integration based on unique student identifier (state ID).
128		What kind of timeframes are expected	The RFP does not assume a daily load of

		for loading the data?	all types of data into the warehouse. Rather, periodic loads of separate data (EASIER, IMS, ITBS/ITED) will occur over different weeks during the year.
129		Does local knowledge and expertise regarding the data exist?	Yes
130		How will the DOE supply data definitions for existing data and for DW data?	Appropriate data dictionaries will be prepared during the design phase.
131		How often must the data warehouse and data marts be refreshed?	The RFP does not assume a daily load of all types of data into the warehouse. Rather, periodic loads of separate data (EASIER, IMS, ITBS/ITED) will occur over different weeks during the year.
132		Who is responsible for writing extracts from the source systems? a. EASIER b. IMS c. ITBS	The vendor.
133	1 25	Technical information about following Data sources (What kind of database server? Size of the data source (in GB)? Size of the datasource per year? Is this data sources relational? Does all tables in the data sources have last updated & created date/timestamp fields?): a. Individual student records (Project EASIER) b. Special education data (IMS) c. Standardized achievement testing data (Iowa Test of Basic Skills/Iowa Test of Educational Development). Does DE already have any kind of reporting tools/system which they are currently using or have?	For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately). There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size. The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately). The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).
134	2	Are the data feeds that are part of this RFP's scope capable of answering any or all of the out of scope data warehouse futures goals outlined in 1.1.3?	No
135	6 – 7 29	Is there any additional data that can help us predict sizing?	For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500

			<p>MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
136	7	1.4: Will data be collected from the 15 community colleges? If so, in which data feed? Is there a requirement as part of this RFP to store data from the community colleges?	A possible future enhancement.
137	25	Is all the historical data available for EASIER and IMS in the relational databases or are there any other formats such as tapes, DVDs, CDs, flat files on SAN etc.?	The plan is to load three years of data.
138	25	How is the EASIER and IMS data stored: is it in relational databases, tapes, DVDs, CDs, flat files on SAN, etc.?	<p>For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325</p>

			fields (approximately).
139	25 27	How often do the source systems refresh? a. EASIER b. IMS c. ITBS	Presently the EASIER and ITBS data are refreshed three times a year. IMS is refreshed daily. This is not to be construed as the schedule for when the data warehouse will be loaded.
140	25	How many years of historical data are available in EASIER and the IMS?	Three years
141		How many years of historical assessment data is expected to be loaded as a part of this project?	Three years
142	26	How many assessment tests does Iowa administer?	Iowa does not have a state assessment. The number of assessments used in the state is not known. ITBS and ITED are intended for the data warehouse.
143		How many of those assessment tests will be loaded into the data warehouse?	Data from the ITBS and ITED will be loaded into the data warehouse.
144		At what level will the assessment data be loaded: overall test scores, skill level scores, or the questions and answer level?	Overall or total scores will be loaded as well as subtest scores. There are no current plans to include item analysis.
145		How are the ITBS and ITED assessment data stored: is it in relational databases, tapes, DVDs, CDs, flat files on SAN, etc.?	Yes, the data stored is in a relational database.
146	28	i: Prefer smart updates—loading and/or updating only the records that have been added or updated since the last iteration. How does your source systems (EASIER, IMS, etc) track data changes (delete, update, new record?). Are log files available?	Will need to be determined during the design phase.
147	29	3.2.1.2 a Can you provide more indicative information on the volumes of data expected for the 520,000 students in IOWA over 20 years?	For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately). There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size. The Iowa Department of Education is

			<p>currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
148	29	<p>3.2.1.2 Data Warehouse</p> <p>How much raw data space is anticipated to support all necessary data requirements including the 20 years of student data and other historical data deemed necessary by the DE.</p>	<p>For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
149	29	<p>b: Ability to store historical data that is deemed necessary by the DE. Please clarify how this relates to the 20 year history requirement a?</p>	<p>As part of the design phase, will need to determine how and where the 20 years of data are to be stored, May need x years of data readily available and 20-x years at a different level of accessibility.</p>
150	45	<p>What is the estimated required system storage (in TB) for 20 years of student data and all other information specified by the DE for storage in this system? It is understood that this is exclusive of other data storage needs as defined on Section 3.2.1.9 Performance and Scalability.</p>	<p>For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is</p>

			<p>currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
151	29	3.2.1.2 b Could you provide more information on the volume and content of this historical data?	<p>For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
152	29	How often does the data in the Data Warehouse need to be updated? nightly?	The RFP does not assume a daily load of all types of data into the warehouse. Rather, periodic loads of separate data (EASIER, IMS, ITBS/ITED) will occur over different weeks during the year.
153	29	Any need for aggregation tables on relational side of DW?	That will need to be determined during the design phase.
154	29	Data Warehouse: In the description it states that the primary sources of data are Project EASIER, IMS System, and ITBS/ITED data. What are the other minor sources of information and what is the repository (i.e. are we loading	There will be various SQL lookup tables (such as address, assignment) that will need to be loaded.

		information from spreadsheets, etc)?	
155	42	What is the data size in TB for the all of the source systems?	<p>For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
156		How much data in TB is planned to be loaded into the data warehouse as part of this project?	<p>For Project EASIER, there are over 505,000 rows in the student table. The current size for the fall collection is 500 MB (approximately).</p> <p>There are also winter and spring collections of data of comparable size.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with IMS personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. There would be 110,000 records. Each record contains 20 fields, record length of 200 bytes (approximately).</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Education is currently meeting with the ITBS/ITED personnel to determine the data elements that would be included in the data warehouse. The file size is 630 MB consisting of 400,000 records with 325 fields (approximately).</p>
157		Is DE a .NET or Java shop?	The Iowa Department of Education uses both.
158		Are there current standards such such	The current Iowa Department of

		as OS, RDMBS, encryption, portal software, API such as Web Services or other standards currently in place?	Education environment is mainly Microsoft based, but the Iowa Department of Education is open to current technologies that are commonly used in the data warehousing industry.
159		Does IA have standards defined related to the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operating System ▪ Relational Database ▪ Encryption ▪ Portal software ▪ API such as Web Services 	The current Iowa Department of Education environment is mainly Microsoft based, but the Iowa Department of Education is open to current technologies that are commonly used in the data warehousing industry.
160		Is there any infrastructure, either hardware or software that exists in the current environment that could be used to fulfill portions of this requirement?	Proposals should include a hardware and software solution for a full and scalable development, test/quality assurance and production environment that does not utilize the existing infrastructure.
161		What license agreements are available already at the DOE or ITE?	The Iowa Department of Education will license the necessary standard software with the owner (or authorized licensor) of such software.
162	30	Section 3.2.1.3.1.c mentions .NET as a leading industry standard. Does the Dept. of Education require or prefer a .NET-based solution? Would a solution that is not .NET-based be scored equivalently to one that is?	The Iowa Department of Education is open to all proposals that meet the functionality requirements specified in the RFP.
163	42	(Sec 3.2.1.7) There is a seeming contradiction in this section. One statement in the RFP is "The DE is not predisposed to any particular platform or database management system, ..." and the immediately following point is that the proposed solution must conform to a Microsoft API. Does the DE have a predisposition to a Microsoft Solution? More importantly, has the DE used an existing solution as the basis for construction of the RFP – and is this solution eligible to respond to the RFP?	The Iowa Department of Education is open to all proposals that meet the functionality requirements specified in the RFP.
164	42	3.2.1.7: Which server vendors (Dell, HP, etc.) do you support in your data center today?	Currently, the Iowa Department of Education utilizes HP servers but is able to purchase any hardware on the Western States Contracting Alliance contract.
165		Who is DE's (Department of Education) Hardware vendor? Do they use IBM, HP	Currently, the Iowa Department of Education utilizes HP servers but is able

		or Dell Hardware?	to purchase any hardware on the Western States Contracting Alliance contract.
166		Is this project intended to be perpetually supported by external resources or is the work anticipated to be internalized at some future time?	1 st question is no; 2 nd question is yes
167	46 47	Toll free phone support with tracking system – how long?	One year after the contract expires.
168		Should the vendor propose new SAN Infrastructure to be used for data storage exclusively by the Data Warehouse Solution? If not, what is the existing SAN infrastructure that the system needs to be compatible with?	Proposals should include a hardware and software solution for a full and scalable development, test/quality assurance and production environment to support the data warehouse functionality requirements of the RFP that does not utilize the existing infrastructure.
169	42	Section 3.2.1.7 calls for development, test/quality assurance and production environments. For solutions comprised completely of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products, would the Iowa Department of Education be agreeable to eliminating the development environment requirement since the only real development that would occur is report and OLAP cube development?	In that situation, the development environment would only be necessary for report and OLAP development.
170	43	3.2.1.6 Usability 3.2.1.7 Technology Requirements d: Leverage the existing investment in information systems and infrastructure at the DE. The diagram shows a SAN as part of the DE Infrastructure. How do you want us to leverage the infrastructure? For example the diagram shows SANs, will there be enough disk space available on the SAN to hold the test and production Data Warehouse repositories or do we need to include additional SAN/Disk space in our proposal?	Proposals should include a hardware and software solution for a full and scalable development, test/quality assurance and production environment to support the data warehouse functionality requirements of the RFP that does not utilize the existing infrastructure.
171	28	I: Create, implement, and document a robust performance testing approach/plan. Please provide more detail on what you are looking for in response to this question. Are you interested in an actual test plan or just the overall approach?	The Iowa Department of Education is interested in the approach that would be proposed for testing and as much detail as possible about the testing plan.
172	39	Section 3.2.1.4, System Administration	The system should be able to track

		on page 39 indicates that the data warehouse administration is required to provide on-line reporting of all data warehouse activities, including end-user activities. Can the Iowa Department of Education be more specific regarding the types of activities it would like to track?	activities like user logins, invalid login attempts, tables accessed, etc.
173	39	Are there practical limits to the requirement for an online report of ALL end user activities? Pg 39	The system should be able to track activities like user logins, invalid login attempts, tables accessed, etc.
174	40	How much detail is expected with the requirement to log all Ad Hoc queries?	The level of detail will be determined during the design process.
175	22	<p>Section 2.3.2 Warranties Paragraph 3 “The warranty shall provide that all hardware,... is free from imperfections in design and free from any and all defects and is able to perform continuously and satisfactorily under normal operating conditions.”</p> <p>Does this exclude hardware that is purchased by the state as specified on Page 42, Section 3.2.1.7 Paragraph 2? “The DE however, reserves the right to purchase all or some of the hardware and software either directly from this procurement or a state of Iowa statewide procurement contract, whichever is determined to provide the best value for the DE and meets the state requirements.”</p>	Yes, all equipment purchased by the Iowa Department of Education outside the contract will have an independent warranty that will be the responsibility of the Iowa Department of Education.
176	22	Section 2.3.2 Warranties Paragraph 3 With respect to warranty for all programming and database development services, what is the DE’s desired warranty period?	A minimum of three years.
177	46 22	<p>Will written acceptance of the software be done when the contract is signed with the chosen vendor?</p> <p>Is the warranty affected by whether the contract term length is one year or three years?</p>	Written acceptance of the software will occur when the vendor demonstrates the operational ability of the data warehouse. The warranty period will begin at the end of the contract period regardless of the number of years of the contract.